

APPLICATION OF THE EMPLOYEES' STATE
INSURANCE SCHEME

*234. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the cities in which the Employees' State Insurance Scheme has been introduced together with the dates of its introduction;

(b) the number of workers covered in each centre;

(c) the amounts collected from the workers and employers;

(d) the number of factories which have applied for exemption and on what grounds;

(e) the actual benefits which have been provided for the workers in each of these centres and the number of workers who have taken advantage of these benefits;

(f) whether this progress has been in accordance with the programme of enforcement of the scheme worked out for this year;

(g) if the answer to part (f) above be in the negative, the reasons for failure to implement the full programme; and

(h) the programme of enforcement for the rest of the year 1953?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI): (a) The scheme has been introduced in the Delhi State and in the Kanpur area of Uttar Pradesh with effect from the 24th February 1952, and in seven industrial areas in the Punjab, namely, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Ambala, Abdullapur, Jagadhari, Batala, Jullundur and Bhiwani, with effect from the 17th May 1953.

(b) The number of employees covered in the Delhi State, in the Kanpur area and in the seven centres in the Punjab is 40,000, 84,000 and 32,000, respectively.

(c) Rs. 38,95,804 and 1,74,16,218 from workers and employers respectively, up to the 30th June 1953.

(d) and (e). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix V, Annexure No. 63.]

(f) No.

(g) and (h). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix V, Annexure No. 64.]

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Am I to understand, Sir, that the State Insurance Scheme will be applied to industrial centres in Bombay, Madras and Mysore?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: Yes, in Bombay, Madras and Mysore also this scheme will be introduced; we are in touch with the respective Governments for the early implementation of the scheme.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: May I know, Sir, when the Government hope to introduce the scheme in Madras, Bombay and Mysore?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: All that depends upon the arrangements being completed. We are in closest touch with them and we do hope that at a very early stage, in the course of a few months, the scheme will be implemented in all these States.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Out of the 536 factories which have applied for exemption, according to the statement, may I know how many have been exempted?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: No exemptions have yet been given. Most probably Regional Boards will come into existence in each of the States and they will go into these matters.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Sir, the hon. Minister has given the number of employees covered and the amount collected from them under the scheme. Could he tell us the number of workers who have actually come under the operation of the scheme?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: All employees in the industries specified have to come into the scheme.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: Is it a fact that the Madras Government is not yet in a position to co-operate, to do its part, and that is why the scheme is being delayed?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: No, on the other hand, the Madras Government have stated that they will introduce the scheme in Coimbatore.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Sir, according to the statement, the total number of claims admitted in the Delhi region is 2,042 and 2,397 in Kanpur in respect of disablement benefit. Out of these, may I know how many have been really paid?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: I cannot give the information but I think all must have been paid.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, what the States are expected to do in this connection?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: The States must co-operate; they ought to co-operate more and more and, I would like to inform the hon. Member from Mysore that he should also co-operate in telling the Mysore Government to co-operate.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Is the hon. Minister thinking of applying this Act to the textile industry?

MR. CHAIRMAN: **We are passing on to something else.**

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: It is stated that the main difficulty with the State Governments is the want of finance. Now, as all the States are having deficit finance, may I know, Sir, how the Government of India proposes to overcome this?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: Whatever the difficulties, the State Governments are trying to meet this obligation.

NON-PAYMENT OF PROVIDENT FUND GRATUITY MONEY TO THE EX-EMPLOYEES OF THE N.E. RAILWAY

*235. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by Government on account of the non-payment of provident fund and gratuity money to the ex-employees of the Darjeeling Himalayan Section of the North Eastern Railway; and

(b) what action has been taken by Government on these complaints?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) The number of the complaints made by the ex-employees of the Darjeeling Himalayan Section of the North Eastern Railway is not available. Almost all the employees whose settlement dues were held up represented to the Railway Administration. It was found on review in December 1952 that there were in all 90 cases to be settled up.

(b) Since then special measures have been taken to settle these cases. 46 cases have been finally settled. The remaining are being pursued.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, the period for which these cases are pending before the Railway Administration?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I cannot give the period, Sir, but 90 cases were pending at the end of December, 1952. Between December 1952 up till now, out of the 90 cases, 46 cases have been settled and only 44 remain. I cannot give the duration of the pendency of individual cases.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the hon. Minister take it from me that I myself have referred to the Railway Administration several cases which are pending for more than five or six years for the settlement of provident fund and gratuity?